

Professional Auto Care

March and April 2008 Newsletter

Announcements:

- Be sure to check out our websites www.ProfessionalAutoCare.net and www.HoustonTexasCars.com
- Remember we are your one stop shop, with our state inspection center, alignment center, body shop, and car sales department. Also keep in mind when you refer someone to our shop you'll receive a free oil change voucher in the mail.
- AAA Texas members receive a discount at Professional Auto Care just by showing their membership card when they drop off their vehicles.

Things You Auto Know: True or False?

With the sheer number of automobiles in the world, it's only natural that a number of myths, untruths, and misconceptions surround modern motoring. Some of these myths are harmless, while others can actually be dangerous! A blowout caused by an under-inflated tire can cause an accident. Other mistruths can result in neglect and end up as expensive repairs. Either way, knowledge is power—and it can pay off to test your car care knowledge by following along with this true or false quiz. The answers are already in there, so there's no need to cheat.

You can tell if a tire needs or has too much air just by looking at it.

FALSE: A tire can be as much as 10 pounds per square inch low on air pressure and not show any outward signs. Tires will lose about one pound of pressure per month all by themselves. Not only will the correct tire pressure help tires last longer, it can also save money in fuel costs. Under-inflated tires create more rolling resistance, which will use more fuel. Checking tire pressure is easy and takes just a few minutes.

Changing the oil and filter can help an engine last longer.

TRUE: While changing the oil too frequently is not required, the difference between an engine that lasts for the life of a vehicle and the one that wears out too early is based on following the vehicle manufacturer's oil and filter maintenance schedule. Trust that the people who built your car know the most about what its engine needs.

If an air filter looks clean it's still okay.

FALSE: An air filter traps dirt and junk so small that it cannot be seen. Even if an air filter looks OK, it can be clogged with crud. Once the small passages in the filter designed to catch dirt get clogged, the engine can have trouble breathing. Replacing an air filter is easy and inexpensive. The owner's manual will contain a maintenance schedule. Tip: air filters can get clogged quicker than normal in cities and dusty areas.

A good coat of wax can help keep paint looking good.

TRUE: A coat of quality wax not only keeps in the good stuff that keeps paint looking new, but it also repels the bad stuff. That thin layer of wax repels all manner of things that want to harm paint. Which wax to use is not as an important choice as actually using wax, any wax. Wax application is clearly a case of something is better than nothing.

Brake fluid lasts forever.

FALSE: Brake fluid is hygroscopic, which means it has great ability to absorb water from the air. Over time this moisture can cause damage to the brake system, and dangerously lower the brake fluid boiling point. Brake fluid should be clear and transparent. Cloudy brake fluid means its time for a change.

It takes more fuel to stop and start an engine than it does to leave it running.

FALSE: This may have in certain cases been true in the olden days of carbureted engines, but modern fuel injection systems have put a permanent end to this myth. While turning the car on and off all the time may not be the best idea for the starter, letting it idle away any longer than three minutes is simply a waste of fuel.

The tire pressure listed on the sidewall of the tire is what the tire should be inflated to.

FALSE: Tire pressure runs with the vehicle itself, not the tires it rolls on. Always inflate tires to pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. These pressures can be found on the inside pillar of the door, or sometimes on the inside of the glovebox door. Note that the pressures are different for a fully loaded automobile. Tip: check the pressure in the spare tire now and again.